Borough of Bewdley.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1894.

BEWDLEY:—

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TO THE

Town Council of Bewdley.

Bewdley, January 28th, 1895.

AREA (in Statute Acres) 2070.

POPULATION (Census 1891), 2870.

POPULATION (Estimated 1894), 2900.

GENTLEMEN,

Death Rate. During the year ending Dec. 31st, 1894, the number of deaths registered was 44; the annual death rate being 15·17 per 1000. This is less than last year's percentage of 17·58.

Birth Rate. During the corresponding period there were 102 births, giving a birth rate of 35·17 per 1000. This is higher than last year.

Respiratory Organs. There were 11 deaths from diseases of these organs, as against 12 last year.

Heart Disease. There were 8 deaths from Heart Disease, this being a decrease of 1 on the preceding year.

Cancer. There was only 1 death, as against 3 last year.

Phthisis. This disease was accountable for 3 deaths, same as last year.

The Notification of Diseases Act.

Fifty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, 1 case of diptheria, and 3 cases of Erysipelas. The epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the early part of the year was so wide-spread as to necessitate the closing of the Public Elementary Schools. I am pleased to say that none of these cases proved fatal; in spite of the severity of the outbreak, and the absence of an Isolation Hospital.

Measles.

The Borough was visited in the Autumn by an epidemic of Measles, which compelled the closing of the Public Elementary Schools. Measles is not one of the diseases compulsorily notifiable, therefore it is impossible to state the exact number of people attacked, but it is probable that about 200 children contracted the disease, and of these, 4 died.

The Housing of the Working Class Act.

Various improvements have been made in the Borough: Under Section 33, I would suggest that steps should be taken for the demolition of many uninhabited and delapidated houses in Sandy Bank, as many of these are at present dangerous to the Public safety.

Drainage.

During the year several improvements have been made, the old brick drains wherever found, being replaced by socket pipes.

Removal of Night Soil &c.

Satisfactorily carried out by the Corporation Sanitary Cart.

Water Supply.

Fair: from pumps and draw-wells, which were sufficient during the year.

Burial Grounds.

Satisfactory.

Canal Boats.

Regularly inspected.

Bakehouses.

Inspected, and found satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses.	Again, I would suggest the advisability of a public abattoir, not only in the interest of Public Safety but of Public Health.
Common Lodging Houses.	None.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops.	Regularly inspected, and kept in a satisfactory condition.
Offensive Trades.	None.
Sale of Food and Drugs Act.	No case during the year.
Bye-Laws.	Duly carried out.
River Pollution.	Very slight, and is not increasing.
Industries.	The chief are:—Agriculture, Horn Manufacture, Brass-founding, Basket making, Carpet making, and Wool spinning, (Kidderminster), Rope making and Tanning. No employment of a deleterious character exists.
Vans and Tents.	None.
Fruit Picking, Bark-peeling and Harvesting.	The principal operations required are performed by the residents.
Vaccination.	Efficiently carried out.

Special Reports.

May 26th 1894, re the drainage of the Tickenhill Manor. Re the comparative death-rate of the surrounding boroughs.

Conclusion.

I would say, in conclusion, that excepting the epidemics of Scarlet Fever and Measles, the latter of which was accountable for only four deaths, the general health of the Borough has been satisfactory during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

TREVOR WEBSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE A.

TABLE of DEATHS during the Year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of the Borough of Bewdley, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities.	Mortality from all Causes, at Subjoined Ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Measles.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Total.
Bewdley Urban.	44	13	8	1	1	12	9	Under 5	4	1		7			9	21
								5 upwds			3	1	8		11	23
Total.	44	13	8	1	1	12	9	Under 5	4	1		7			9	21
								5 upwds			3	1	8		11	23

TABLE B.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Average for the Years 1885 to 1894 inclusive.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.	1885.
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population.	27·95	33·79	29·56	36·6	26·1	19·3	27·0	27·3	27·1	26·7	26·1
Total Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.	16·31	15·17	17·58	16·16	21·6	16·2	11·8	14·3	14·0	16·0	20·3
Death Rate from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 of the population.	1·32	1·72	Nil.	Nil.	0·3	0·3	1.2	1·8	1·2	1·5	5·2
Rate of Infant Mortality estimated by measuring the proportion of Children who died before Attaining 1 Year per 1,000 of the Births Registered during the same period.	149	132	93	94	266	146	128	279	103	115	141

TABLE C.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

Area in Acres, 2070. Population, 1881, 3088. Population, 1891, 2870. Decrease, 1881-91, 218.
Estimated Population, 1894, 2900.

REGISTERED BIRTH.			REGISTERED DEATHS.			MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.					
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 60.	60 and upwards.
41	57	98	21	23	44	13	8	1	1	10	11

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.

Measles.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Cancer.	Phthisis.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Other Diseases.
4	1	1	3	2	6	8	19

Birth Rate, 33·79. Death Rate, 15·17. Zymotic Death Rate, 1·72. Inf. Mortal., 132 per 1000. Phthisis Death Rate, 1·03. Resp. Death Rate, 2·72. Measles Death Rate, 1·37. Diarrhœa Death Rate, 0·34. Cancer Death Rate, 0·34.

TABLE C. *(Continued.)*

	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membraneous Croup.	Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.
Cases		Very prev-alent.	57				3	
Deaths		4						

Diseases prevalent, Scarlatina and Measles, Period, Spring, Autumn and Winter. Schools closed, Public Elementary Schools.